

April 25, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senate Budget Subcommittee Hearing on CalWORKs

On Thursday, April 25, 2002, the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 discussed various CalWORKs issues, including: 1) CWDA's Employment Services proposal; 2) funding for community colleges; and 3) childcare.

Subcommittee Chair Wes Chebro stated that the Senate is developing a CalWORKs proposal, which will include recommendations from the Women's Caucus on childcare. The CalWORKs proposal is expected to be discussed during the Subcommittee's May Open Issues hearings.

CalWORKs Employment Services

The Governor's proposed Budget does not adequately or equitably fund Employment Services for all counties. The Subcommittee adopted the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) equity proposal which would provide the County with up to \$73 million above the current year base allocation. The Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 adopted CWDA's proposal on April 3, 2002.

With the exception of CWDA's proposal, no actions were taken.

Assembly Subcommittee Hearing on Trauma

The Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 will hold a hearing on Monday, April 29, 2002, to discuss a budget augmentation of \$25 million for California's trauma centers. Various trauma center representatives are expected to provide testimony. Virginia Hastings, the County EMS Director, will testify on behalf of the County.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 1481 (Polanco), as introduced, prohibited the use of inmate welfare funds "to pay required county expenses of confining inmates in a local detention system, such as meals, clothing, housing, or medical services or expenses...." As amended on April 23, 2002, the bill amends Section 4015 of the Penal Code, which deals with the cost of care for persons committed to county jail, by adding "medical and mental health care services and expenses" to the list of necessary things that "the board of supervisors shall provide the sheriff...(and) the expenses thereof shall be paid out of the county treasury."

The intent of the amendment seems to be to prevent the use of inmate welfare fund monies to pay for inmate medical and mental health care. However, the inmate welfare fund is part of the county treasury and arguably could be used for these purposes even if SB 1481 becomes law.

SB 1481 would require county boards to pay the cost of health and mental health care for inmates in county jails and would undermine the authority and discretion of your Board to budget for a County department. Therefore, **our Sacramento advocates will oppose SB 1481.**

According to the author's office, SB 1481 is supported by the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. There is no registered opposition. The bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Committee on Public Safety on April 30, 2002.

Status of County-Interest Legislation

AB 1826 (Migden), which is opposed by the County unless it is amended to provide for reimbursement, was pulled from the Assembly Health Committee's agenda on April 23, 2002. That measure would mandate that health insurance plans provide infertility treatments, including in vitro fertilization, as a covered benefit. Assembly Health Committee Chair Helen Thomson told committee members that all new mandates for health insurance plans would be held in Committee, especially in light of CalPERS recent announcement that its premiums for next year would incur double-digit increases. Ms. Thomson also

Each Supervisor
April 25, 2002
Page 3

stated that higher premiums would make it more difficult for employers to provide health care coverage for their employees, which would increase California's medically uninsured population.

County-supported AB 2415 (Keeley) passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 23, 2002. That measure would eliminate permanently the monthly reporting requirements in the CalWORKs and Food Stamp Programs and replace them with quarterly reporting and prospective budgeting requirements. AB 2415 proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. **County-supported AB 2926 (Longville)**, which also would enact quarterly reporting, was dropped by the author. Assembly Member Longville will now be a co-author on AB 2415.

County-opposed AB 2712 (Aroner), which would require certain hospitals to establish minimum respiratory therapist-to-patient ratios, was pulled from the Assembly Health Committee's agenda at the request of the author. This measure is unlikely to be heard unless a rule waiver is granted.

We will continue to keep you advised of any new developments.

DEJ:GK
MS:md

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Local 660
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities
 City Managers Associations
 Buddy Program Participants